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MERSHON AFFILIATE ORGANIZES NATIONAL SECURITY SIMULATION

Published: 18 November 2014

Students in Mershon affiliate Dakota Rudesill's National Security Law class this fall had an unusual assignment for their final exam: They participated in a two-day immersive national security simulation held November 14-15, 2014, at Moritz College of Law.

Stepping into the shoes of lawyers, policymakers, intelligence analysts, and reporters, the students dealt with a series of realistic national security crises ripped from the headlines. They had to apply law, policy and facts they had learned in class to navigate the simulation's outcome.

The Ohio State University National Security Simulation explored decision making in federal executive and legislative branches at the intersection of law and policy regarding national security, under crisis conditions. It was an open-universe, dynamic, immersive simulation that moved in real time over 48 hours. Students had agency, and their decisions dictated outcomes for the story lines.

Participating in the simulation were Mershon Center faculty affiliates Peter Mansoor, who played the president of the United States, and Peter Shane, as well as Mershon graduate student affiliates Daniel Curzon, Rudy Hightower, and Will Waddell. Throughout the event, Rudesill drove the players toward particular issues and dilemmas.

Chief Judge James E. Baker of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and former legal advisor to the National Security Council, gave the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of integrity and good process in decision-making.

Several experienced Washington practitioners including former members of the military and National Security Council played the roles of senior government officials, giving students the experience of working with seasoned leaders with high expectations.

Students from units across the Ohio State campus also participated, including Moritz College of Law, John Glenn School of Public Affairs, School of Communication, International Studies Security and Intelligence, and several other graduate programs.

Besides facilitating cross-pollination at Ohio State and acting as a final exam for students in Rudesill's National Security Law class, the simulation also built practical skills that are transferrable to any kind of legal, policy or military situation.

These skills include spotting, appraising, and using facts, legal authorities, and processes; developing and appraising options; working in teams; advising leaders and making decisions; exercising judgment and integrity under pressure; protecting confidential information (including but not only its particular national security variety, classified information); and showing adaptation and resilience as the facts, policy, and law change.

The simulation was informed by three similar exercises which Rudesill has had a significant role in designing and running: Georgetown Law's law-focused National Security Crisis Law simulation, a national security legislative process simulation in Georgetown's Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic, and Yale's policy-focused Grand Strategy Crisis Simulation.

Read more and see photos and videos from The Ohio State University National Security Simulation at <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/briefing-room/national-security-simulation>


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| | <p>The Ohio State University School of Communication</p> <p>The Ohio State University John Glenn School of Public Affairs</p> <p>Non-Player Characters (NPCs), Judges, and Observers:</p> <p>James E. Baker, chief judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and former NSC Legal Advisor</p> <p>Jamie Orr, dean of the School of Criminal Justice at Tiffin University, and retired Navy JAG</p> <p>Maj. Gen. Tim McMahon (USAF, Ret.)</p> <p>Rear Admiral Norman Hayes (USN, Ret.)</p> <p>Col. Frank Titus (USAF, Ret.)</p> <p>Ya'ara Barnoon, associate, Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP</p> <p>Rock Cheung, former Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State</p> <p>Taylor Kline, supervising attorney, Federal Legislation & Administrative Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center</p> <p>John McMurray, journalist</p> <p>Ben Presson, Battelle</p> <p>Kathleen Rice, Counsel, Faegre Baker Daniels, and former counsel, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and former Assistant U.S. Attorney</p> <p>Justin Schardin, Bipartisan Policy Center Financial Regulatory Reform Initiative Associate Director, and former campaign manager and U.S. Senate Legislative Assistant</p> <p>Lala Qadir, associate, Covington & Burling LLP</p> <p>Participating faculty, The Ohio State University</p> <p>Dakota Rudesill, Simulation Director, Moritz College of Law</p> <p>Peter Mansoor, Department of History, and Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)</p> <p>Nicole Kraft, Communications School</p> <p>Dean Alan Michaels, Moritz College of Law</p> <p>Peter Shane, Moritz College of Law</p> <p>Ric Simmons, Moritz College of Law</p> <p>John Quigley, Moritz College of Law</p> <p>Steve Huefner, Moritz College of Law</p> <p>Terri Enns, Moritz College of Law</p> <p>Margot Kaminski, Moritz College of Law</p> <p>Kevin Freeman, Department of Political Science</p> <p>Law Alumni Participants:</p> <p>Ashley Loyke</p> <p>Ajay Kumar</p> <p>Jessica Mysinger</p> <p>Law Student Participants:</p> <p>Susan Restrepo</p> <p>Alia Sisson</p> <p>Kristen Maiorino</p> <p>Ross Bomholt</p> <p>Hunter West</p> <p>CJ Demmer</p> <p>Christopher Ballard</p> <p>Scott Bison</p> <p>Jonathan Scandling</p> <p>Meagan Woodall</p> <p>Erika Frank</p> <p>Kyle Sommerville</p> <p>Cyara Hotopp</p> <p>Mark Zronek</p> <p>Art Hessler</p> <p>Joey Guilkey</p> <p>Danny Dubow</p> <p>Cathleen Beck</p> <p>Meagan Cyrus</p> <p>Meagan VanBrocklin</p> <p>James Mee</p> <p>Katie Kalbacher</p> <p>Elle Celeste</p> <p>Graduate Student Participants:</p> <p>Rudy Hightower</p> <p>Will Chou</p> <p>Brian Morgan</p> |
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| | <div>Will Bezbatchenko</div> <div>Daniel Curzon</div> <div>Dan Troy</div> <div>Will Waddell</div> <div>Jeff Green</div> <div>Rob Vandenberg</div> <div>JT Tucker</div> <div>Steven Higley</div> <div>Nathan MacMaster</div> <div>Markus Schoof</div> <div>International Studies Student Participants:</div> <div>Arielle Cronig</div> <div>Paul Crouser</div> <div>Kate Windnagel</div> <div>School of Communications Student Participants:</div> <div>Amanda Etchison</div> <div>Abby Secker</div> <div>Robert Scarpinito</div> <div>Olivia Houts</div> <div>Lizzie Essman</div> <div>Alaina Bartel</div> <div>Jackie Hobson</div> <div>Jimena Esparaza</div> <div>Tyler Butler</div> <div>Matt Wilkes</div> <div>Kara Straight</div> <div>Adam Bross</div> <div>Taylor Ferrell</div> <div>Isabelle Beecy</div> <div>Regina Squeri</div> <div>Sallee Ann Ruibal</div> <div>Sarah Mikati</div> <div>Brooke Proffitt</div> <div>Tiana Reed</div> <div>Mary Siekman</div> <div>Rebekah Salyers</div> <div>Alan Reeder</div> <div>Alex Ndive</div> <div>Kyjah Coryat</div> <div>Stephanie Alonso</div> <div>John Glenn School of Public Affairs Undergraduate Student Participants:</div> <div>Rachel Armstrong</div> <div>Daryia Carson</div> <div>Etta Tany Ebot</div> <div>Daisy Christophel</div> <div>Adele Appiah</div> <div>Mallory Buckley</div> <div>Kelsey Jones</div> <div>Victoria Allen</div> <div>Olawale Oredola</div> <div>Nadav Pecha</div> | | |
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